United Nations S/2017/255

Security Council

Distr.: General
31 March 2017
English
Original: Russian

Letter dated 24 March 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith humanitarian and information bulletins from the Russian Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic for the period 20-24 March 2017 (see annex).

I should be grateful if this letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) P. **Ilichev**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 24 March 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Humanitarian bulletin of the Russian Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic (20 March 2017)

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic by the Russian Federation and international organizations

Over the past 24 hours, the Russian Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides has prepared humanitarian cargoes (food, basic supplies and medicine) for upcoming deliveries in Aleppo and Damascus governorates.

Russian airplanes parachuted 20.6 tons of humanitarian cargoes (food parcels) to the city of Dayr al-Zawr, which were received by the Syrian authorities through the United Nations.

Information bulletin of the Russian Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic (21 March 2017)

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours, three ceasefire agreements have been signed with Anz, Sahwat al-Khidr and Dayr al-Laban in Suwayda' governorate.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process has increased to 1,365.

Negotiations on joining the ceasefire regime continued with armed opposition groups in Aleppo, Damascus, Hama, Homs and Qunaytirah governorates.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire of 27 February 2016 has increased to 136.

The number of populated areas which the Syrian government forces have liberated from armed groups of the international terrorist organization Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) remains unchanged at 189.

Over the past 24 hours, government forces have gained control of 5.6 square kilometres. A total area of 3,340.6 square kilometres has been liberated.

Observance of the ceasefire regime

At 0000 hours on 30 December 2016, a ceasefire came into force in accordance with the consolidated agreement on a comprehensive resolution of the Syrian crisis.

The number of Syrian opposition armed groups that have joined the ceasefire regime is 64.

Over the past 24 hours, the Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the consolidated agreement has reported seven violations: five in Ladhiqiyah governorate and two in Damascus governorate.

The Turkish representative office has reported 15 violations of the consolidated agreement in the following governorates: 5 in Aleppo, 4 in Damascus, 3 in Dar'a and 3 in Hama.

The Russian representative office has been unable to confirm all 15 violations during its investigations of the incidents.

Humanitarian bulletin of the Russian Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic (21 March 2017)

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic by the Russian Federation

Over the past 24 hours, the Russian Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides has carried out seven humanitarian operations: six in Aleppo governorate and in Suwayda' governorate.

Residents of Qadi Askar, Inzarat, Shahba' al-Qadimah, Shaykh Maqsud and Firdaws districts in Aleppo city and Shahba' in Suwayda' governorate received 6 tons of bottled drinking water and 350 food parcels.

Children's backpacks with school supplies and children's toys were delivered to the Muhammad Jahiri School in the Zabdiyah district of Aleppo city.

Over the past 24 hours, 2,550 residents have received humanitarian assistance. In total, 8 tons of humanitarian cargoes have been distributed to the population.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic by international organizations

Russian airplanes parachuted 21 tons of humanitarian cargoes (food parcels) to the city of Dayr al-Zawr, which were received by the Syrian authorities through the United Nations.

Information bulletin of the Russian Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic (22 March 2017)

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours, three ceasefire agreements have been signed with Tall Agharr and Aramtah in Homs governorate and Ayn al-Sawda' in Ladhiqiyah governorate.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process has increased to 1,368.

Negotiations on joining the ceasefire regime continued with armed opposition groups in Aleppo, Damascus, Hama, Homs and Qunaytirah governorates.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire of 27 February 2016 is unchanged — it is still 136.

The number of populated areas which the Syrian government forces have liberated from armed groups of the international terrorist organization Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) remains unchanged at 189.

Over the past 24 hours, government forces have gained control of 2.3 square kilometres. A total area of 3,342.9 square kilometres has been liberated.

Observance of the ceasefire regime

At 0000 hours on 30 December 2016, a ceasefire came into force in accordance with the consolidated agreement on a comprehensive resolution of the Syrian crisis.

The number of Syrian opposition armed groups that have joined the ceasefire regime is 64.

Over the past 24 hours, the Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the consolidated agreement has reported six violations: three in Damascus governorate and three in Ladhiqiyah governorate.

The Turkish representative office has reported 13 violations of the consolidated agreement in the following governorates: 7 in Damascus, 4 in Aleppo, 1 in Dar'a and 1 in Hama.

The Russian representative office has been unable to confirm all 13 violations during its investigations of the incidents.

Humanitarian bulletin of the Russian Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic (22 March 2017)

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic by the Russian Federation

Over the past 24 hours, the Russian Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides has carried out four humanitarian operations: three in Damascus governorate and one in Aleppo governorate.

In Aleppo city, at the Hayrad School in Hananu district, residents received 1 ton of bread, 1,000 portions of hot food, as well as children's toys, sweets and warm clothing.

At Ma'lula and Qatana in Damascus governorate and the Russian cultural centre in Damascus city, 1.5 tons of food, 700 food parcels and 0.6 tons of children's food were distributed to residents.

Over the past 24 hours, 3,150 residents have received humanitarian assistance. In total, 7.9 tons of humanitarian cargoes have been distributed to the population.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic by international organizations

Humanitarian convoys of United Nations cargoes were sent from Ratma to Muta'iyah and Nawa in Dar'a governorate with the assistance of the Russian Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides.

Russian airplanes parachuted 21 tons of humanitarian cargoes (food parcels) to the city of Dayr al-Zawr, which were received by the Syrian authorities through the United Nations.

Information bulletin of the Russian Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic (23 March 2017)

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours, three ceasefire agreements have been signed with Buwaydan and Umm al-Qusur in Dar'a governorate and Dayrutan in Ladhiqiyah governorate.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process has increased to 1,371.

Negotiations on joining the ceasefire regime continued with armed opposition groups in Aleppo, Damascus, Hama, Homs and Qunaytirah governorates.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire of 27 February 2016 remains unchanged at 136.

The number of populated areas which Syrian government forces have liberated from armed groups of the international terrorist organization Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) since 1 January 2017 has increased to 193.

Over the past 24 hours, government forces have gained control of 56 square kilometres. A total area of 3,398.9 square kilometres has been liberated.

Observance of the ceasefire regime

At 0000 hours on 30 December 2016, a ceasefire came into force in accordance with the consolidated agreement on a comprehensive resolution of the Syrian crisis.

The number of Syrian opposition armed groups that have joined the ceasefire regime is 64.

Over the past 24 hours, the Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the consolidated agreement has reported 17 violations in the following governorates: 7 in Damascus, 5 in Ladhiqiyah, 2 in Dar'a, 2 in Hama and 1 in Idlib.

The Turkish representative office has reported 10 violations of the consolidated agreement in the following governorates: 4 in Damascus, 4 in Hama and 2 in Dar'a.

The Russian representative office has been unable to confirm all 10 violations during its investigations of the incidents.

Humanitarian bulletin of the Russian Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic (23 March 2017)

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic by the Russian Federation

Over the past 24 hours, the Russian Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides has carried out five humanitarian operations in Aleppo governorate.

In Aleppo city, 3.6 tons of bottled drinking water and 1 ton of stationery supplies and children's toys were distributed to residents of Bustan al-Qasr, Sukkari, Hananu, Bani Zayd and Ma'adi districts.

Over the past 24 hours, humanitarian assistance has been provided to 1,600 residents. In total, 4.6 tons of humanitarian cargoes have been distributed to the population.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic by international organizations

Russian airplanes parachuted 21 tons of humanitarian cargoes (food parcels) to the city of Dayr al-Zawr, which were received by the Syrian authorities through the United Nations.

Information bulletin of the Russian Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic (24 March 2017)

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours, three ceasefire agreements have been signed with Hafir al-Fawqa in Damascus governorate and with Janinah and Ariqah in Suwayda' governorate.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process has increased to 1,374.

Negotiations on joining the ceasefire regime continued with armed opposition groups in Aleppo, Damascus, Hama, Homs and Qunaytirah governorates.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire of 27 February 2016 is unchanged — it is still 136.

The number of populated areas which Syrian government forces have liberated from armed groups of the international terrorist organization Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) since 1 January 2017 remains unchanged at 193.

Over the past 24 hours, government forces have gained control of 1 square kilometre. A total area of 3,399.9 square kilometres has been liberated.

Observance of the ceasefire regime

At 0000 hours on 30 December 2016, a ceasefire came into force in accordance with the consolidated agreement on a comprehensive resolution of the Syrian crisis.

The number of Syrian opposition armed groups that have joined the ceasefire regime is 64.

Over the past 24 hours, the Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the consolidated agreement has reported 15 violations in the following governorates: 6 in Damascus, 6 in Ladhiqiyah, 2 in Hama and 1 in Dar'a.

The Turkish representative office has reported 15 violations of the consolidated agreement in the following governorates: 7 in Hama, 3 in Damascus, 3 in Idlib, 1 in Dar'a and 1 in Aleppo.

The Russian representative office has been unable to confirm all 15 violations during its investigations of the incidents.

United Nations S/2017/256

Security Council

Distr.: General
27 March 2017

Original: English

Letter dated 24 March 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am writing to you with reference to the letters of the Syrian regime's representative dated 17 February 2017 and 10, 11, 14 and 15 March 2017.

Turkey categorically refutes the fictitious and baseless allegations contained in the aforementioned letters and others to the same effect. These are futile efforts to distort the facts, manipulate reality and divert the international community's attention from the regime's brutal crimes against the people of Syria. The regime will never be allowed to wash its hands of the humanitarian catastrophe and extensive destruction it caused in Syria.

The Syrian regime, which has lost its legitimacy long ago, is the very root cause of all the problems emanating from the Syrian conflict.

Turkey has to cope with the most adverse effects of the conflict, in particular the Syria-based terrorism and forced displacement of the masses.

As underlined in our letter to the Security Council dated 24 August 2016 and issued under the symbol S/2016/739, Turkey has undertaken the necessary measures in response to the terrorist attacks carried out by DEASH, which has been directly and deliberately targeting Turkey, in exercise of the inherent right of self-defence as outlined in Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations.

The military operation we initiated against DEASH, which is being conducted within the scope of the Global Coalition against DEASH is essential in terms of ensuring our border and national security. Furthermore, it aims at maintaining the territorial integrity and political unity of Syria. In this regard, I would also like to recall the responsibility attributed to the member states in the fight against terrorism through Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001), 2170 (2014) and 2178 (2014), among others.

As long as threats to our national security continue, we will not hesitate to exercise our rights emanating from the international law.

I would be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Feridun H. **Sinirlioğlu**
Permanent Representative

17-04890 (E) 290317

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United Nations S/2017/257

Security Council

Distr.: General
28 March 2017
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 26 March 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I write further to our previous identical letters addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council regarding the serious threat facing the Furat and Baath Dams as a result of the indiscriminate aerial bombardment of those facilities by the forces of the so-called international coalition led by the United States of America, the latest of which were the identical letters of 2 March 2017. I regret to inform you that the so-called international coalition has intensified its relentless and unceasing bombardment, portending an unprecedented humanitarian and environmental catastrophe.

A number of workers at the Furat and Baath Dams were killed in the indiscriminate, savage raids that were carried out by the forces of the so-called international coalition. Technicians working at those dams were forced to leave their work, as it had become very difficult, if not impossible, to enter the work site.

The continuation of this bombardment threatens to take the electrical power systems out of service and inundate the areas surrounding the Furat and Baath Dams owing to equipment failure, as technicians are unable to reach the dam and repair and operate the equipment. It should be noted that the Furat and Baath stations require constant maintenance because their equipment is old and requires repair and maintenance daily.

The decision of the so-called international coalition led by the United States of America to ignore what we had warned of in our letter of 2 March 2017 means that the day of catastrophe is now closer. Moreover, the decision of the Security Council to ignore the appeals of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic means that it is giving this illegitimate alliance the green light to destroy the infrastructure of Syria and accepting a catastrophe in which cities and villages in Syria and Iraq would be wiped out if the Furat Dam were to collapse.

The members of the Security Council must act with the seriousness required to halt this catastrophe if they are to prevent the death of hundreds of thousands persons who live along the river and preserve the environment in the area that would be inundated.

17-04968 (E) 290317 300317

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The Syrian Arab Republic strongly condemns the raid carried out by the so-called international coalition against the Furat and Baath Dams, and calls on the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council, collectively and individually, to intervene immediately and forcefully in order to halt the aggressions of this coalition and its plans to destroy the people and environment of Syria. The operations of the so-called international coalition, which it is conducting under the pretext of countering terrorism in Syria, continue to be for show and are not serious. These are also suspect because they are being conducted without coordination with the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and are not authorized by a resolution of the Security Council, which alone has the authority to respond to threats to international peace and security.

I should be grateful if this letter could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mounzer **Mounzer**
Minister Plenipotentiary
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

United Nations S/2017/258

Security Council

Distr.: General
27 March 2017

Original: English

First report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 4 of Security Council resolution 2335 (2016)

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 4 of Security Council resolution 2335 (2016), in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the resolution no later than 30 March 2017, with a final report three months after the transfer of any remaining funds, pursuant to paragraph 2 of the resolution, to the Government of Iraq, unless otherwise authorized by the Council.

2. Pursuant to paragraph 2 of resolution 2335 (2016), the Secretariat continues to maintain the escrow accounts authorized in paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 of Security Council resolution 1958 (2010).

II. Administrative escrow account

3. I should like to inform the members of the Security Council that the activities undertaken and funded as outlined in paragraph 4 of resolution 1958 (2010) from 1 January to 31 December 2016 have led to expenditure amounting to $657,514 for the activities related to the orderly termination of the residual activities of the oil-for-food programme.

III. Indemnification escrow account

4. I should like to inform the members of the Security Council that no expenditures have been incurred to date in respect of the amount referred to in paragraph 5 of resolution 1958 (2010).

5. In a letter dated 29 December 2016 addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2016/1126) and his fifth report to the Council pursuant to paragraph 8 of resolution 1958 (2010) (S/2016/497), the Secretary-General indicated that the United Nations and the Government of Iraq had reached certain understandings on the indemnification arrangements to be concluded in accordance with paragraph 7 of resolution 1958 (2010). I wish to express my appreciation for the continuous and

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constructive interaction between the Government of Iraq and the Secretariat on this matter.

6. In this regard, I welcome the important steps that the Government of Iraq has taken in the meantime in respect of some of the elements of the understandings reached. While substantial progress has been made, the necessary implementing arrangements have yet to be signed.

7. I remain hopeful that the Government of Iraq and the Secretariat will be able to conclude such arrangements on the basis of the understandings already reached and in accordance with the timelines set out in resolution 2335 (2016).

8. I will inform the Security Council of further progress in connection with the implementation of resolution 2335 (2016).

United Nations S/2017/259

Security Council

Distr.: General
29 March 2017

Original: English

Letter dated 27 March 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instruction from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a list clarifying the numbers of civilian casualties and injuries resulting from mortar shells and explosive device attacks committed by terrorist armed groups in Syria in the period from 22 February to 21 March 2017 (see annex).

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mounzer **Mounzer**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

17-05062 (E) 310317

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Annex to the letter dated 27 March 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

List of civilian casualties and injuries resulting from mortar shells and explosive device attacks committed by terrorist armed groups in Syria in the period from 22 February to 21 March 2017

City	*Casualties*	*Injuries*
Aleppo	19 (including 12 children)	62 (including 27 children)
Damascus	77 (including 1 child)	260 (including 23 children)
Damascus suburb	7	40 (including 12 children)
Dara'a	6 (including 3 children)	16 (including 4 children)
Dayr al-Zawr	4	38 (including 2 children)
Hama	9 (including 7 children)	14 (including 2 children)
Hasakah	5 (including 2 children)	–
Homs	7 (including 1 child)	35 (including 6 children)
Idlib	–	–
Ladhiqiyah	–	–
Qunaytirah	1 (including 1 child)	6 (including 4 children)
Raqqah	–	–
Suwayda'	2 (including 1 child)	6 (including 1 child)
Tartus	–	–
Total	**137 (including 28 children)**	**477 (including 81 children)**

United Nations S/2017/260

Security Council

Distr.: General
28 March 2017

Original: English

Letter dated 27 March 2017 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the forty-second monthly report of the Director General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), submitted pursuant to paragraph 12 of Security Council resolution 2118 (2013). The present letter covers the period from 23 February to 22 March 2017.

As before, the situation with regard to the destruction of the chemical weapons production facilities declared by the Syrian Arab Republic remains unchanged, with the destruction of three remaining sites yet to be verified by OPCW. The Director General, in his note to the OPCW Executive Council, affirms that the prevailing security situation continues to prevent safe access to these sites.

With respect to the initial declaration by the Syrian Arab Republic and subsequent submissions, I note that, on 2 March 2017, the Director General submitted to the Executive Council a report on the work of the Declaration Assessment Team. In this regard, I further note that the Director General has sent an invitation to the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to resume, in early May 2017, high-level consultations to address the unresolved issues related to the declaration by the Syrian Arab Republic. I reiterate the need for the Government to work with the OPCW Technical Secretariat with a view to resolving all outstanding issues.

The continuing use of toxic chemicals as weapons, as well as the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic, imperils the long-established norm against such weapons. Their use is intolerable and impunity must be stopped by identifying and holding those responsible to account.

The OPCW fact-finding mission in the Syrian Arab Republic is continuing its efforts to investigate allegations of the use of chemical weapons, including through studying all available information relating to such allegations. As the Director General states in his note to the Executive Council, the fact-finding mission is currently preparing a report further to its investigation of four reported incidents of the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic. It also continues to investigate eight additional incidents of the use of chemical weapons, all of which have been recorded since the start of 2017.

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The OPCW-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism continued to build up its capacity. An investigations office has been reopened within the OPCW headquarters, and its work has commenced for the Mechanism. The Mechanism also continued its cooperation and coordination with OPCW, Member States and other stakeholders.

(*Signed*) António **Guterres**

Annex to the letter dated 27 March 2017 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish]

I have the honour to transmit to you my report entitled "Progress in the Elimination of the Syrian Chemical Weapons Programme" prepared in accordance with the relevant provisions of the OPCW Executive Council Decision EC-M-33/DEC.1, and the United Nations Security Council resolution 2118 (2013), both dated 27 September 2013, for transmission to the Security Council (see enclosure). My report covers the period from 23 February 2017 to 22 March 2017 and also covers the reporting requirements of the Executive Council decision EC-M-34/DEC.1, dated 15 November 2013.

(*Signed*) Ahmet Üzümcü

Enclosure

[Original: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish]

Note by the Director-General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

Progress in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme

Background

1. In accordance with subparagraph 2(f) of the decision by the Executive Council (hereinafter "the Council") at its Thirty-Third Meeting (EC-M-33/DEC.1, dated 27 September 2013), the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter "the Secretariat") is to report to the Council on a monthly basis regarding the implementation of that decision. In accordance with paragraph 12 of United Nations Security Council resolution 2118 (2013), the report by the Secretariat is also to be submitted to the Security Council through the Secretary-General.

2. The Council, at its Thirty-Fourth Meeting, adopted a decision entitled "Detailed Requirements for the Destruction of Syrian Chemical Weapons and Syrian Chemical Weapons Production Facilities" (EC-M-34/DEC.1, dated 15 November 2013). In paragraph 22 of that decision, the Council decided that the Secretariat should report on its implementation "in conjunction with its reporting required by subparagraph 2(f) of Council decision EC-M-33/DEC.1".

3. The Council, at its Forty-Eighth Meeting, adopted a decision entitled "Reports of the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria" (EC-M-48/DEC.1, dated 4 February 2015) noting the Director-General's intent to include reports of the OPCW Fact Finding Mission (FFM) in Syria, along with information on the Council's discussion thereof, as part of the monthly reporting pursuant to United Nations Security Council resolution 2118 (2013). Similarly, the Council, at its Eighty-First Session, adopted a decision entitled "Report by the Director-General Regarding the Declaration and Related Submissions by the Syrian Arab Republic" (EC-81/DEC.4, dated 23 March 2016), noting the Director-General's intent to provide information on the implementation of that decision.

4. The Council, at its Eighty-Third Session, adopted a decision entitled "OPCW-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism Reports on Chemical Weapons Use in the Syrian Arab Republic" (EC-83/DEC.5, dated 11 November 2016). In subparagraph 12(a) of that decision, the Council decided that the Director-General shall "regularly inform the Council on the implementation of this decision and incorporate information regarding the implementation of this decision into his monthly reporting to the United Nations Security Council, through the United Nations Secretary-General, regarding EC-M-33/DEC.1".

5. This, the forty-second monthly report, is therefore submitted in accordance with the aforementioned Council decisions and includes information relevant to the period from 23 February 2017 to 22 March 2017.

Progress achieved by the Syrian Arab Republic in meeting the requirements of Executive Council decisions EC-M-33/DEC.1 and EC-M-34/DEC.1

6. Progress by the Syrian Arab Republic is as follows:

   (a) The Secretariat has verified the destruction of 24 of the 27 chemical weapons production facilities (CWPFs) declared by the Syrian Arab Republic. The security situation still continues to preclude safe access both for the Syrian Arab Republic to destroy the remaining aircraft hangar, which stands ready to accept the explosive charges, and for the Secretariat to confirm the condition of the two stationary above ground facilities.

   (b) On 14 March 2017, the Syrian Arab Republic submitted to the Council its fortieth monthly report (EC-85/P/NAT.1, dated 13 March 2017) regarding activities on its territory related to the destruction of its CWPFs, as required by paragraph 19 of EC-M-34/DEC.1.

Progress in the elimination of Syrian chemical weapons by States Parties hosting destruction activities

7. As reported previously, all of the chemicals declared by the Syrian Arab Republic that were removed from its territory in 2014 have now been destroyed.

Activities carried out by the Secretariat with respect to Executive Council decisions EC-81/DEC.4 and EC-83/DEC.5

8. In decision EC-81/DEC.4, the Council requested the Secretariat, through the Declaration Assessment Team (DAT), to continue its efforts, on an expedited basis, to verify the accuracy and completeness of the Syrian Arab Republic's declaration and related disclosures, and to address the gaps, inconsistencies, and discrepancies it identified in the "Report on the Work of the Declaration Assessment Team Regarding the Declaration and Related Submissions by the Syrian Arab Republic" (EC 81/HP/DG.1, dated 22 February 2016). The Council also requested the Director-General, in parallel with the efforts of the DAT, to report to the Council, at all future sessions, any unresolved issues regarding the Syrian declaration and related submissions.

9. In accordance with decision EC-81/DEC.4 and paragraph 6 and subparagraph 12(b) of decision EC-83/DEC.5, a Note by the Director-General entitled "Report on the Work of the Declaration Assessment Team" (EC-84/HP/DG.1, dated 2 March 2017), which summarises and presents an update on the

outstanding issues, was submitted to States Parties. The Council noted the report at its Eighty-Fourth Session.

10. As stated by the Director-General in his opening statement to the Council at its Eighty-Fourth Session, an invitation was sent to the Deputy Foreign Minister of the Syrian Arab Republic, H.E. Dr Faisal Mekdad, and his delegation to resume high level consultations to address the unresolved issues related to the Syrian Arab Republic's declaration. The consultations, proposed to take place in early May 2017, would be carried out on the basis of a matrix which summarises the issues pertaining to the Syrian declaration and was shared with the Syrian Arab Republic in January 2017. The Director-General will report to the Council on these consultations.

11. In accordance with paragraph 12 of Council decision EC-83/DEC.5, two reports on the status of implementation of that decision (EC-84/HP/DG.1 and EC-84/DG.25, dated 6 March 2017) were submitted to the States Parties. These reports were noted by the Council at its Eighty-Fourth Session.

12. As reported previously, the Syrian Arab Republic was notified on 19 January 2017 of a forthcoming inspection at the Syrian Scientific Studies and Research Centre (SSRC), in accordance with paragraph 11 of Council decision EC-83/DEC.5. On 27 January 2017, two days prior to the planned deployment, the Syrian Arab Republic contacted the Secretariat in order to postpone the inspection due to security concerns. As mentioned in report EC-84/DG.25, the Syrian Arab Republic subsequently indicated that the inspection could proceed; the first inspection has now been completed at both the Barzah and Jamrayah facilities of the SSRC. This first inspection took place from 26 February to 5 March 2017. Samples were taken by the inspection team and will be sent to OPCW designated laboratories for analysis. The Syrian National Authority has extended the necessary cooperation in the conduct of this mission.

13. In accordance with paragraph 10 of Council decision EC-83/DEC.5, regarding the inspections at those sites identified by the JIM in its third and fourth reports as involved in the weaponisation, storage, delivery, and use of toxic chemicals as weapons, the Secretariat will continue to monitor the security situation in the Syrian Arab Republic through the United Nations Department of Safety and Security to determine whether security conditions permit inspections at the sites in question.

Other activities carried out by the Secretariat with respect to the Syrian Arab Republic

14. The Steering Committee, which is comprised of representatives from the OPCW, the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), and the Syrian Arab Republic, met in Beirut on 23 February 2017 to discuss the ongoing activities under the tripartite agreement between UNOPS, the OPCW, and the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and the contribution agreement between the OPCW and UNOPS. Amendments to these agreements to extend the support provided by UNOPS to the OPCW Mission in the Syrian

Arab Republic until the end of December 2017 are expected to be concluded soon.

15. As requested by the Council at its Seventy Fifth Session (paragraph 7.12 of EC-75/2, dated 7 March 2014), the Secretariat, on behalf of the Director-General, has continued to brief States Parties in The Hague on its activities.

16. As at the cut-off date of this report, one OPCW staff member was deployed as part of the OPCW Mission in the Syrian Arab Republic.

Supplementary resources

17. As previously reported, a Trust Fund for Syria Missions was established in November 2015 to support the FFM and other remaining activities, such as those of the DAT. As at the cut-off date of this report, contribution agreements totalling EUR 9.7 million had been concluded with Canada, Chile, Finland, France, Germany, Monaco, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, and the European Union.

Activities carried out with respect to the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria

18. Guided by Council decisions EC-M-48/DEC.1 and EC-M-50/DEC.1 (dated 23 November 2015), as well as United Nations Security Council resolution 2209 (2015), the FFM continued to study all available information relating to the allegations of use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic. On 8 March 2017, the Director-General provided an update with regard to the FFM's work to the Council at its Eighty-Fourth Session.

19. As reported previously, by letters dated 16 and 29 November 2016, the Syrian Arab Republic requested the FFM to investigate incidents reported to have occurred on 16 September, 31 October, 3 November, and 13 November 2016 in the area of Aleppo. During the reporting period, the FFM continued its work with a view to preparing a report, which will be finalised once additional information about unexploded ordnance and samples retrieved by a CBRN[1] team of the Russian Federation has been received and processed.

20. The FFM is also continuing its work to analyse incidents of alleged use of chemical weapons that were recorded both in 2016 and 2017.

21. The fifth report of the OPCW-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM), submitted to the United Nations Security Council on 13 February 2017 pursuant to its resolutions 2235 (2015) and 2319 (2016), was made available to States Parties upon receipt on 3 March 2017.

[1] CBRN = Chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear.

Conclusion

The main focus of the future activities of the OPCW Mission in the Syrian Arab Republic will be on the implementation of Council decisions EC-83/DEC.5 and EC-81/DEC.4 and on the activities of the FFM, as well as on the destruction and verification of the remaining aircraft hangar, confirmation of the status of the two stationary above ground facilities, and annual inspections of the underground structures already verified as destroyed.

United Nations S/2017/261

Security Council

Distr.: General
31 March 2017
English
Original: Russian

Letter dated 28 March 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith humanitarian and information bulletins from the Russian Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic for the period 24-28 March 2017 (see annex).

I should be grateful if this letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) P. **Ilichev**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

17-05250 (E) 040417 060417

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 28 March 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Humanitarian bulletin of the Russian Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic (24 March 2017)

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic by the Russian Federation

Over the past 24 hours, the Russian Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides has carried out six humanitarian operations: five in Aleppo governorate and one in Qunaytirah governorate.

In Aleppo city, 2,500 portions of hot food, bread and food products were distributed to residents of Bab Qinasirin, Sukkari, Qadi-Askar, Ashrafiyah and Karm al-Da'da' districts.

Residents of Hadar in Qunaytirah governorate received 350 food parcels and 50 parcels of children's food.

Over the past 24 hours, 2,960 residents have received humanitarian assistance. In total, 3 tons of humanitarian cargoes have been distributed to the population.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic by international organizations

Humanitarian convoys of United Nations cargoes were sent to Muta'iyah and Tall Shihab in Dar'a governorate with the assistance of the Russian Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides.

Russian airplanes parachuted 20.7 tons of humanitarian cargoes (food parcels) to the city of Dayr al-Zawr, which were received by the Syrian authorities through the United Nations.

Information bulletin of the Russian Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic (25 March 2017)

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours, no ceasefire regime agreements have been signed.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process remains unchanged at 1,374.

Negotiations on joining the ceasefire regime continued with armed opposition groups in Aleppo, Damascus, Hama, Homs and Qunaytirah governorates.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire of 27 February 2016 is unchanged — it is still 136.

The number of populated areas which the Syrian government forces have liberated from armed groups of the international terrorist organization Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) has increased to 195.

Over the past 24 hours, government forces have gained control of 26.2 square kilometres. A total area of 3,426.1 square kilometres has been liberated.

Observance of the ceasefire regime

At 0000 hours on 30 December 2016, a ceasefire came into force in accordance with the consolidated agreement on a comprehensive resolution of the Syrian crisis.

The number of Syrian opposition armed groups that have joined the ceasefire regime is 64.

Over the past 24 hours, the Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the consolidated agreement has reported 13 violations in the following governorates: 4 in Damascus, 4 in Ladhiqiyah, 4 in Hama and 1 in Dar'a.

The Turkish representative office has reported 19 violations of the consolidated agreement in the following governorates: 8 in Hama, 6 in Damascus, 3 in Aleppo, 1 in Idlib and 1 in Homs.

During its investigations of the incidents, the Russian representative office established that one violation had been committed by the Nusrah Front. It has not confirmed the other violations.

Information bulletin of the Russian Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic (26 March 2017)

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours, two ceasefire agreements have been signed with Ghizlaniyah in Damascus governorate and Umm al-Zaytun in Suwayda' governorate.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process has increased to 1,376.

Negotiations on joining the ceasefire regime continued with armed opposition groups in Aleppo, Damascus, Hama, Homs and Qunaytirah governorates.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire of 27 February 2016 is unchanged — it is still 136.

The number of populated areas which the Syrian government forces have liberated from armed groups of the international terrorist organization Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) has increased to 196.

Over the past 24 hours, government forces have gained control of 31 square kilometres. A total area of 3,457.1 square kilometres has been liberated.

Observance of the ceasefire regime

At 0000 hours on 30 December 2016, a ceasefire came into force in accordance with the consolidated agreement on a comprehensive resolution of the Syrian crisis.

The number of Syrian opposition armed groups that have joined the ceasefire regime is 64.

Over the past 24 hours, the Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the consolidated agreement has reported 12 violations: 5 in Damascus, 5 in Ladhiqiyah and 2 in Homs.

Humanitarian bulletin of the Russian Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic (26 March 2017)

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic by the Russian Federation

Over the past 24 hours, the Russian Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides has carried out six humanitarian operations: five in Aleppo city and one in Darminah in Ladhiqiyah governorate.

In Aleppo city, 2,500 portions of hot food, bread and water were delivered to residents of Hamdaniyah-4, Bustan al-Qasr, Qadi Askar, Shahba' al-Qadimah and Shaykh Sa'd districts.

Residents of Darminah in Ladhiqiyah governorate received 350 food parcels.

Over the past 24 hours, 2,850 residents have received humanitarian assistance. In total, 1.7 tons of humanitarian cargoes have been distributed to the population.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic by international organizations

Humanitarian convoys of United Nations cargoes were sent from Damascus city to Suq Wadi Barada and Dayr Mukarram in Damascus governorate with the assistance of the Russian Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides.

Information bulletin of the Russian Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic (27 March 2017)

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours, 17 ceasefire agreements have been signed with Bayt Hujayrah and Masli in Ladhiqiyah governorate; Dimas in Damascus governorate; Hiyad and Tha'lah in Suwayda' governorate; and Dayr Qaq, Abu Taltal, Suran al-Bab, Sarijah, Aran, Ayshah, Tadif, Shurbah, Ayn al-Dhahab, Barlahin, Marran and Mazariyat Marran in Aleppo governorate.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process has increased to 1,393.

Negotiations on joining the ceasefire regime continued with armed opposition groups in Aleppo, Damascus, Hama, Homs and Qunaytirah governorates.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire of 27 February 2016 is unchanged — it is still 136.

The number of populated areas which Syrian government forces have liberated from armed groups of the international terrorist organization Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) since 1 January 2017 remains unchanged at 196.

The area liberated by government forces has not changed from 3,457.1 square kilometres.

Observance of the ceasefire regime

At 0000 hours on 30 December 2016, a ceasefire came into force in accordance with the consolidated agreement on a comprehensive resolution of the Syrian crisis.

The number of Syrian opposition armed groups that have joined the ceasefire regime is 64.

Over the past 24 hours, the Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the consolidated agreement has reported 15 violations in the following governorates: 8 in Damascus, 3 in Dar'a, 2 in Ladhiqiyah, 1 in Hama and 1 in Idlib.

The Turkish representative office has reported 18 violations of the consolidated agreement in the following governorates: 6 in Hama, 5 in Damascus, 4 in Aleppo, 1 in Idlib, 1 in Homs and 1 in Dar'a.

The Russian representative office has not confirmed any of the 18 violations during its investigations of the incidents.

Humanitarian bulletin of the Russian Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic (27 March 2017)

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic by the Russian Federation

Over the past 24 hours, the Russian Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides has carried out six humanitarian operations: five in Aleppo governorate and one in Suwayda' governorate.

In Aleppo city, 2.4 tons of bottled drinking water, 300 food parcels and 0.8 tons of stationery supplies and children's toys were distributed to residents of New Aleppo, Bab-Nasrin, Haydariyah, Khalidiyah and Ma'adi districts.

Residents of Shaqqa in Suwayda' governorate received 350 food parcels.

Over the past 24 hours, humanitarian assistance has been provided to 1,900 residents. In total, 6.1 tons of humanitarian cargoes have been distributed to the population.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic by international organizations

Russian airplanes parachuted 21 tons of humanitarian cargoes (food parcels) to the city of Dayr al-Zawr, which were received by the Syrian authorities through the United Nations.

Information bulletin of the Russian Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic (28 March 2017)

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours, four ceasefire agreements have been signed with Zimrin and Harf al-Salib in Ladhiqiyah governorate, Dayr al-Hajar in Damascus governorate and Buthaynah in Suwayda' governorate.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process has increased to 1,397.

Negotiations on joining the ceasefire regime continued with armed opposition groups in Aleppo, Damascus, Hama, Homs and Qunaytirah governorates.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire of 27 February 2016 is unchanged — it is still 136.

The number of populated areas which Syrian government forces have liberated from armed groups of the international terrorist organization Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) since 1 January 2017 has increased to 198.

In total, 3,489.55 square kilometres have been liberated by government forces.

Observance of the ceasefire regime

At 0000 hours on 30 December 2016, a ceasefire came into force in accordance with the consolidated agreement on a comprehensive resolution of the Syrian crisis.

The number of Syrian opposition armed groups that have joined the ceasefire regime is 64.

Over the past 24 hours, the Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the consolidated agreement has reported 13 violations in the following governorates: 7 in Damascus, 3 in Ladhiqiyah, 2 in Hama and 1 in Idlib.

The Turkish representative office has reported 16 violations of the consolidated agreement in the following governorates: 4 in Hama, 4 in Aleppo, 4 in Idlib, 2 in Damascus, 1 in Dar'a and 1 in Homs.

The Russian representative office has not confirmed any of the 16 violations during its investigations of the incidents.

United Nations S/2017/262

Security Council

Distr.: General
31 March 2017
English
Original: French

Letter dated 28 March 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the communiqué issued this 28 March 2017 by the Office of the President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo concerning the good offices mission of the Conférence épiscopale nationale du Congo (CENCO), as well as the involvement of the Head of State, from this point on, in the implementation of the Agreement of 31 December 2016 (New Year's Eve agreement) (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ignace **Gata Mavita**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

17-05174 (E) 030417 100417

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Annex to the letter dated 28 March 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Communiqué from the Office of the President of the Republic

This Tuesday, 28 March 2017, His Excellency the President of the Republic, Head of State, received a delegation from the Conférence épiscopale nationale du Congo (CENCO), led by its President, Monsignor Marcel Utembi, Archbishop of Kisangani.

CENCO confirmed to His Excellency the President of the Republic the end of the good offices mission entrusted to it in Kingakati on 29 October 2016 and extended in Kinshasa on 5 December of the same year.

CENCO had been charged by the Head of State with the mission of achieving greater inclusiveness in implementing the agreement concerning the organization of credible, transparent and peaceful elections, signed on 18 October 2016 at the Cité de l'Union Africaine.

His Excellency the President of the Republic thanked CENCO for the enormous efforts it had undertaken in frequently difficult circumstances.

The talks held at the Kinshasa Inter-diocesan Centre enabled fruitful dialogue and resulted in the signing of the Agreement of 31 December 2016 (New Year's Eve agreement).

However, in spite of the efforts of all parties, the special arrangement that was intended to supplement the agreement that had been reached foundered on two major differences.

The divisive issues were the method for the appointment of the Prime Minister, and the affiliation and selection by consensus of the person who will preside over the Conseil national de suivi de l'accord, following the death of Mr. Étienne Tshisekedi wa Mulumba, chair of the Conseil des sages of the Rassemblement.

His Excellency the President observed that CENCO did not merely take note of the divisive issues, it also made suggestions in that connection which have formed the basis for the involvement from this point on of the Head of State.

His Excellency the President of the Republic believes that the current impasse absolutely must not mean a definitive end to the dialogue. On the contrary, dialogue must be pursued in order to ensure that the most suitable means of effectively implementing what has become known as the New Year's Eve agreement are found as quickly as possible.

Therefore, the Head of State has taken note of the fact that the Prime Minister should come from the opposition that did not sign the agreement of 18 October 2016, and, more precisely, from the Rassemblement.

With regard to the leadership of the Conseil national de suivi de l'accord, the President of the Republic is calling on the relevant parties to nominate a person by consensus.

The President of the Republic, in his role as guarantor of the proper functioning of national institutions, is due to address the nation soon, through the two chambers of Parliament, in accordance with article 77 of the Constitution.

Office of the President of the Republic
On behalf of the Chief of Staff
Jean-Pierre **Kambila Kankwende Wa Mpunga**
Deputy Chief of Staff

United Nations S/2017/263

Security Council

Distr.: General
23 March 2017

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General concerning the credentials of the representative of Kazakhstan

Pursuant to rule 15 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the Secretary-General wishes to report that he has received a letter dated 22 March 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations stating that Mr. Yerlik Ali, Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the African Union, will represent Kazakhstan at the 7905th meeting of the Security Council, to be held on 23 March 2017.

In the opinion of the Secretary-General, that letter constitutes adequate provisional credentials.

17-05072 (E) 300317

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United Nations S/2017/264

Security Council

Distr.: General
28 March 2017

Original: English

Letter dated 28 March 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to attach herewith the statement issued by the Humanitarian Aid Commission of the Sudan on 26 March 2017 (see annex) on the efforts of the Sudan to mitigate the humanitarian crisis in South Sudan. The statement attributed to the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for the Sudan is also attached (see annex).

Contrary to these positive developments and constructive engagement by the Government of the Sudan, the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) (the national army of South Sudan), which is still deploying some of its units in the Sudanese territories north of the 1 January 1956 border line, continued its incursions on Sudanese territories. For instance, on 26 February 2017, a force from SPLA looted 65 heads of sheep from Misseriya herders in the Aldihin area, 25 kilometres south-east of Almiram town. Moreover, on 10 March 2017 a force from SPLA that originated from the Algirinti area attacked the Alshadeeda area, 28 kilometres south-east of Elmairan, killing five Sudanese civilians and looting heads of cattle.

Having brought this to your kind attention, I should appreciate if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Omer Dahb Fadl **Mohamed**
Permanent Representative

17-05161 (E) 040417

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Annex to the letter dated 28 March 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Republic of the Sudan
Ministry of Welfare and Social Security
Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC)

Press statement

The Government of Sudan Agrees to Open New Corridor for Delivery of Humanitarian Aid in South Sudan

As part of the Sudanese Government's efforts to mitigate the effects of famine and deliver relief assistance to the affected people in the State of South Sudan, the Government of Sudan has announced its agreement this week to open a new corridor for the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) through El Obeid — Heglig — Rubkona — Bentiu to assist famine-affected areas in the States of Unity and Greater Bahr el Ghazal. The Presidency of the Republic of Sudan has directed to contribute 10,000 sacks of *dura* (sorghum) to support the critical humanitarian operation carried out by the United Nations.

The Government of Sudan is also ready to open the River Corridor and hopes that river barges will be returned from South Sudan so that relief efforts can be strengthened, should roads become impassable because of the rainy season.

These steps are in line with the efforts of the Government of Sudan and the directives of the President of the Republic of Sudan to provide humanitarian assistance to the State of South Sudan to donate 12,500 tons of *dura* (in two consignments). The Vice-President also has issued a decree to form the High National Committee for the Support of Refugees from the State of South Sudan under the chairmanship of Field Marshal/Abdulrahman Sawar Al-Dahab and the membership of some 40 members from government entities, national and foreign voluntary organizations and the United Nations.

The Humanitarian Aid Commission has also extended the Humanitarian Aid Delivery Agreement between the Government of Sudan and the State of South Sudan to deliver humanitarian aid to the State of South Sudan, which aims to deliver 65,000 tons of food by the World Food Programme.

Khartoum
26 March 2017

Statement attributable to the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for the Sudan, Ms. Marta Ruedas, on the Sudan opening a new humanitarian corridor for food aid into famine-struck South Sudan

Khartoum, 26 Mar 2017. The United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for the Sudan, Ms. Marta Ruedas, today welcomed the decision by the Government of Sudan to open a new humanitarian corridor for food aid to be delivered by the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) from El Obeid in central Sudan to Bentiu, a town in Unity State, South Sudan, where 100,000 people are enduring famine amid a deepening humanitarian crisis across the country.

"By opening this cross-border corridor, the Government of Sudan is showing its commitment to the people of South Sudan and further strengthening cooperation with the international community to pull South Sudan back from a widening famine that could affect another 1 million people," said Ms. Ruedas. "This decision also comes at a critical time just before South Sudan's rainy season, which starts in May and usually renders these roads impassable."

This week, WFP will be moving an initial delivery of 11,000 metric tons of sorghum — including 1,000 metric tons donated by the Government of Sudan — in seven convoys of 30 to 40 trucks, which is enough to feed 300,000 people for three months. The convoys will take up to four days to complete the 500km journey. The humanitarian corridor will not only allow for the timely delivery of the food aid, but will also help reduce reliance on air operations, which cost six to seven times as much as moving food by river and road.

At least 7.5 million people across South Sudan — almost two thirds of the population — need humanitarian assistance. Sudan is also currently hosting over 350,000 South Sudanese refugees, who have arrived since the conflict erupted in December 2013.

United Nations A/71/851–S/2017/265

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
30 March 2017

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventy-first session
Agenda item 31
Prevention of armed conflict

Security Council
Seventy-second year

Letter dated 27 March 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the occasion of the third anniversary of the adoption of the General Assembly resolution entitled "Territorial integrity of Ukraine" (see annex).

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 31, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

17-05085 (E) 310317

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 27 March 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the occasion of the third anniversary of the adoption of the General Assembly resolution entitled "Territorial integrity of Ukraine"

27 March 2017

The date 27 March 2017 marks the third anniversary of the adoption of the General Assembly resolution entitled "Territorial Integrity of Ukraine" (68/262).

The international community thereby reaffirmed the need for strict compliance by States with their obligations under international law and its commitment to the sovereignty, political independence, unity and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders. As underscored in the resolution, the referendum held in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol on 16 March 2014, having no validity, cannot form the basis for any alteration of the status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea or of the city of Sevastopol.

Despite the clear demand of the international community, over the past three years the Russian Federation has not abandoned its aggressive actions and gross violations of the Charter of the United Nations and fundamental norms and principles of international law, and has continued its temporary occupation of the Crimean Peninsula, blatant infringements of human rights and open military aggression in Donbas. It is high time to recognize that the past 25 years of Russia's membership in the United Nations have been tarnished by its constant disregard for the Charter of the Organization, culminating in Russia's aggression and occupation of part of the territory of Georgia in 2008 and of Ukraine in 2014, as well as ongoing aggression in the Ukrainian Donbas.

The adoption of the General Assembly resolution entitled "Situation of human rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (Ukraine)" (71/205) on 19 December 2016 became another testimony to the major deterioration of the human rights situation in Crimea. The resolution condemns systematic human rights violations committed by the Russian occupation authorities. By condemning the temporary occupation of Crimea by Russia, the General Assembly urges the Russian Federation to uphold all of its obligations under applicable international law as an occupying power, including by bringing an immediate end to all human rights violations in Crimea.

Ukraine urges the Russian Federation to end its occupation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol and fully comply with the demands of General Assembly resolutions 68/262 and 71/205.

Ukraine will continue to take all steps under international law to counter Russian aggression, alleviate the situation of Ukrainian citizens in the temporarily occupied territory, restore its territorial integrity and ensure that Russia makes full reparation for the injury caused by its internationally wrongful acts.

United Nations S/2017/266

Security Council

Distr.: General
29 March 2017

Original: English

Letter dated 29 March 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Further to our previous correspondence regarding the matter referred to herein, I have the honour to convey, through you, to the esteemed members of the Security Council that the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt has launched a radio station with the intention of broadcasting over the area of the Hala'ib Triangle and has established its premises within the said area, in continuation of the steps and measures taken by the Government of Egypt to Egyptianize the Sudanese Hala'ib Triangle.

Having brought this matter to your kind attention, I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Omer Dahab Fadl **Mohamed**
Permanent Representative

17-05084 (E) 300317

Please recycle

United Nations S/2017/267

Security Council

Distr.: General
4 April 2017
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 30 March 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to convey to you the position of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic regarding the thirty-seventh report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2258 (2015) and 2332 (2016) (S/2017/244).

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reaffirms the points made in its previous responses to reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the aforementioned Security Council resolutions. Regrettably, the report maintains its broadly negative framework and ignores the real causes of Syrian suffering and the issue of the delivery of humanitarian assistance. These are primarily attributable to the spread of terrorism and foreign terrorist fighters backed by Governments of United Nations Member States such as Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Qatar, and the persistent imposition of unilateral coercive economic measures on the Syrian people by the United States of America, the European Union and other States, and the obstruction of efforts toward a peaceful political resolution by certain States that benefit from the prolongation of the Syrian crisis.

Below are some of the key observations of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic regarding the thirty-seventh report of the Secretary-General:

1. The report omits the significant and major role played by the Syrian State and its institutions in providing basic services, aid and support to all Syrians without discrimination so that they are able to withstand and move beyond this crisis. The report also omits the significant efforts made by the Syrian Government and the facilities it has provided to Syrians who have fled from the terror of armed terrorist groups. In particular, it has helped to evacuate civilians who have fled from Aleppo's eastern neighbourhoods to its western neighbourhoods, and it has provided food aid, adequate shelter and medical and educational assistance.

2. The Syrian Government has a constitutional and legal duty under national legislation and international law to defend its people against the terrorism of Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), the Nusrah Front and associated entities and terrorist operatives with numerous names and allegiances. The success

of humanitarian operations in Syria is fundamentally attributable to the Syrian Government's considerable efforts in that regard.

3. The Syrian Government reiterates that in the course of carrying out its counter-terrorism efforts, it has complied fully with the provisions of international law and international humanitarian law regarding the protection and security of civilians and the safety of civilian service facilities, such as hospitals and schools.

4. The Syrian Government is committed to the cessation of hostilities agreement that entered into force on 30 December 2016. The terrorist groups have made no such commitment; they have continued to violate the agreement, carrying out brutal terrorist crimes and suicide attacks against civilians and service facilities in several areas in the governorates of Damascus, Rif Dimashq, Hama, Dar'a, Ladhiqiyah, Homs and others. They have also fired shells and other projectiles at civilians in numerous cities and governorates, leading to dozens of dead and hundreds of wounded.

5. The Syrian Government stresses that the Secretariat should cautiously assess the sources of its information and not rely on so-called "open sources" or other sources that are politicized, biased toward terrorist groups and have no credibility, as their primary concern is to direct false allegations at the Syrian Government and its allies. The reports produced by the Secretariat and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) have, unfortunately, been a far cry from the truth. They have relied on lies and allegations spread by armed terrorist groups and the regional and foreign parties and Governments that support and protect them, and by artificial entities such as the so-called White Helmets.

6. The Syrian Government rejects the report's insistence on making the legal error of referring to the armed terrorist groups as the "non-State armed opposition" when they know that these groups are in fact terrorists associated with ISIL and the Nusrah Front and use civilians as human shields. These groups have also used water as a tool of war and collective punishment and blackmail; have targeted civilians and populated areas with mortars, tanks, missiles and car bombs; and engage in torture, kidnapping, murder and sabotage.

7. The Syrian Government regrets that the report persists in promoting the operations of the so-called international coalition and its allies, not to mention the Euphrates Shield operations. The report also deliberately ignores the effects of such operations, including the loss of innocent civilian lives in northern and eastern Syria and the enormous destruction of Syrian infrastructure, particularly oil and gas wells, dams, bridges and water and energy sources. Most recently, the "international coalition" and its allies struck key bridges in the eastern governorates of Syria, including the new Raqqah Bridge, in addition to the Euphrates dams and their environs. The latter could cause an environmental, humanitarian and environmental disaster that would threaten the lives, villages and farms of Syrians living there, and could spread to Iraq. Given these catastrophic implications, the Secretariat must fulfil its responsibility and provide detailed information to the international community about the effects of the operations of the so-called international coalition. Some of those effects are increasing social pressures on Syrians and affecting their livelihoods, development capacities and funding for reconstruction.

8. The Syrian Government regrets that the report uses pejorative and opaque language in paragraph 11, which speaks of population displacements from the region of Khafsah in rural Aleppo as a result of operations carried out by the Syrian Government. Meanwhile, the report culpably neglects to point out that the Syrian Government's liberation of that region from the terrorist ISIL organization led to the resumption of the water supply from the Khafsah pumping station to millions of civilians in Aleppo governorate.

9. The Syrian Government regrets the misleading approach adopted by the report in Box 1, "Key points in February 2017". If the report's authors had respect for their mandate and for professionalism and objectivity, their account of the incident of 13 February 2017 would have been thorough and verified. It would have mentioned that it was ISIL members who cut off the water supply in and around Aleppo; that the Maghlah Bridge in Raqqah was destroyed by the "international coalition" and the forces aligned with it; and that areas in the eastern Ghutah area of Rif Dimashq governorate were besieged from within by armed terrorist groups, which use civilians from those areas as human shields.

10. The Syrian Government reiterates that it alone is responsible for protecting Syrians, and that Member States and international organizations, including the United Nations, must respect and observe this principle. The United Nations must exert pressure on Governments that have violated the rights of Syrians by using terrorism to achieve political objectives and interests.

11. The Syrian Government reminds the Secretariat that it must stop ignoring the significant efforts made and facilities provided by the Syrian Government in order to provide vaccination campaigns in Syria.

12. The Syrian Government reiterates that the Secretariat has no mandate to set out data on specific Syrian governorates; the section on Dar'a governorate, for instance, contains erroneous and politicized information. Rather, the Secretariat ought to have addressed the suffering of civilians in Dar'a governorate as a result of terrorist acts and the practices the Nusrah Front and allied armed groups.

13. The Syrian Government strongly rejects the bias of the Secretariat towards the Turkish Government. In paragraph in paragraph 30, for example, the report conceals the true reason for which the Turkish Government deliberately closed the Nusaybin border crossing and refused December 2015 to approve United Nations requests to deliver humanitarian assistance to Hasakah governorate through that crossing. This refusal is aimed at increasing the suffering of Syrian civilians in Hasakah governorate at the hands of armed terrorist groups, particularly ISIL. In this regard, we wish to point out that the Syrian Government notified the Resident Coordinator that it consented to the reopening of the Nusaybin border crossing, provided that humanitarian assistance was delivered through the crossing in coordination with the Syrian Government, as represented by the Governor of Hasakah, and distributed through the relief subcommittee in Hasakah. However, the Turkish Government has repeatedly refused to respond to United Nations requests for opening of the crossing, and the United Nations has not pursued serious action in this regard out of deference to the sensibilities of the Turkish Government.

14. During the period covered by the report, the Syrian Government facilitated a number of medical evacuations and provided humanitarian assistance to

Syrian towns and cities without discrimination. Recently, humanitarian assistance was delivered to the towns of Kafraya, Fu'ah, Madaya and Zabadani, along with many other areas described by the United Nations as "besieged" and "hard-to-reach".

15. The Syrian Government reiterates that it has approved entry of medical supplies with the inter-agency convoys, and approved requests made by United Nations organizations operating in Syria, contrary to the allegations contained in paragraph 22 of the report.

16. The Syrian Government once again calls on the Secretariat to adhere to its mandate and report on the economic, social and humanitarian suffering of Syrians due to the continued imposition of coercive unilateral economic measures by the United States, the European Union and other States. Those measures target key sectors such as health, electricity, energy, trade, finance and remittances that provide basic and life-sustaining services to the Syrian people and are needed for relief operations. The Syrian Government stresses that continued and deliberate disregard of this fundamental issue could be construed as support for violations of the Charter and relevant United Nations resolutions on the part of those State Governments imposing the unilateral economic, financial and trade measures on Syria. Such unilateral coercive measures are illegitimate and should therefore be rescinded.

17. The Syrian Government recalls its previous concerns regarding false information included in the report, for example:

- The Syrian Government approved the United Nations convoy plan for February in a memorandum dated 31 January 2017, and not 1 February 2017 as stated in paragraph 28 of the report.
- Since the beginning of the current year, the Syrian Government has approved two requests from the World Health Organization (WHO). The first was a request for WHO to deliver medical assistance, including dialysis sessions, to Duma in Rif Dimashq. The second was a request for WHO to send medical assistance to Hasakah governorate.
- To date, the Syrian Government has granted approval to 25 international non-governmental organizations to work in the area of humanitarian and food assistance in Syria. Those organizations have the facilities necessary for their work in accordance with the national laws of Syria.
- In 2016, the Syrian Government granted more than 1,400 entry visas to United Nations staff. During the month of February, it approved 46 applications for entry visas to Syria (not 26, as stated in the report) and 65 applications for renewal of residence (not 33, as stated in the report).

18. The Syrian Government reminds the Secretariat that responsibility for the continued suffering of Palestinian refugees in Yarmuk camp and elsewhere lies with the terrorist ISIL organization, which has blocked humanitarian assistance to the camp and its environs since 2016.

19. The Syrian Government rejects the Secretariat's continual promotion of cross-border assistance, and reiterates that such assistance is ineffective, given that most of it falls into the hands of armed terrorist groups deployed in the targeted areas. The notifications sent to the Syrian Government do not meet the minimum

standard of credibility with regard to figures, data, number of beneficiaries and information on the parties that receive and distribute assistance to civilian beneficiaries.

20. The Syrian Government reiterates that the United Nations Monitoring Mechanism for the Syrian Arab Republic cannot carry out its duty, as it has not been able to verify to date that this cross-border assistance is reaching its rightful beneficiaries. We remind you that the Bab al-Hawa, Bab al-Salamah and Ramtha crossings are entry points for arms and materiel being smuggled to armed terrorist groups in Syria. The Syrian Government strongly rejects the report's continued bias in favour of Turkey and Jordan when discussing the delivery of cross-border assistance. The Syrian Government reiterates that the Syrian Arab Red Crescent stands ready to monitor the delivery of humanitarian assistance to its intended recipients, but the Secretariat has in the past rejected that proposal.

21. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reaffirms its long-standing position that the crisis in Syria requires a political solution based on dialogue among Syrians under Syrian leadership without foreign intervention and without preconditions. The Syrian Government emphasizes that it is fighting terrorism in order to arrive at a political solution and to ensure greater humanitarian access to Syrians in need. It reminds the Secretariat that the success of the political process and any significant improvement in the humanitarian situation will depend, above all, on creating a climate conducive to a serious and non-politicized international and regional commitment to fighting terrorism and on an immediate end to the unilateral coercive economic measures being imposed on the Syrian people with no legal or moral basis. The Syrian Government has played a constructive role in the success of the Astana meetings and in the establishment of a cessation of hostilities, and has strived towards the success of the current Geneva talks.

22. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic once again calls on the Security Council to prevail on the States that support and finance armed terrorist groups to refrain from so doing, in implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions on combating terrorism and the financing thereof, in particular resolutions 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014), 2199 (2015) and 2253 (2015). Compliance with and enforcement of those resolutions is the key to resolving the situation in Syria and delivering unprecedented humanitarian assistance to those in need in Syria.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mounzer **Mounzer**
Minister Plenipotentiary
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

United Nations S/2017/268

Security Council

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The Security Council,

Recalling its previous resolutions and the statements of its President concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), especially its resolutions 2293 (2016), 2277 (2016), 2211 (2015), 2198 (2015), 2147 (2014), 2136 (2014), and 2098 (2013),

Reaffirming the basic principles of peacekeeping, including consent of the parties, impartiality, and non-use of force, except in self-defence and defence of the mandate, and *recognizing* that the mandate of each peace-keeping mission is specific to the need and situation of the country concerned,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the DRC as well as all States in the region and *emphasizing* the need to respect fully the principles of non-interference, good-neighbourliness and regional cooperation,

Recalling that the Government of the DRC bears the primary responsibility to protect civilians within its territory and subject to its jurisdiction, including protection from crimes against humanity and war crimes,

Reaffirming its strong support for the "Comprehensive and Inclusive Political Agreement" signed in Kinshasa on 31 December 2016, *commending* the tireless efforts by the Conférence Episcopale Nationale du Congo (CENCO) mediators to facilitate the agreement, and *calling for* a swift implementation of the agreement, in good faith and in all its components, in order to organize peaceful, credible, inclusive and timely elections no later than December 2017, leading to a peaceful transfer of power, in accordance with the Congolese Constitution,

Recalling that full and timely implementation of the 31 December 2016 agreement is critical in supporting the legitimacy of the transitional institutions, *stressing* the crucial importance of a peaceful and credible electoral cycle, in accordance with the Constitution and respecting the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, for lasting stabilisation and consolidation of constitutional democracy in the DRC, and *calling for* the immediate implementation of confidence-building measures, as per the agreement, including by putting an end to restrictions of the political space in the DRC, in particular arbitrary arrests and

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detention of members of the political opposition and of civil society, as well as restrictions of fundamental freedoms such as the freedom of opinion and expression, including freedom of the press,

Stressing the importance of the Government of the DRC and its national partners taking all necessary steps to accelerate preparations for the elections without further delays, and to ensure an environment conducive to the peaceful and inclusive conduct of political activities, including the security of all political actors, and *reiterating* its commitment to act accordingly regarding all Congolese actors whose actions and statement impede the implementation of the agreement and the organization of the elections,

Remaining deeply concerned by reports of increased serious human rights and international humanitarian law violations committed by some members of the Armed Forces of the DRC (FARDC), the National Intelligence Agency (ANR), the Republican Guard and Congolese National Police (PNC), including against members of the opposition and of civil society in the context of the electoral process, *urging* all parties to refrain from violence and provocation, *stressing* the importance of releasing all persons detained arbitrarily, including human rights defenders and persons of different political affiliations, and *emphasizing* that the Government of the DRC must respect human rights and comply with the principle of proportionality in the use of force,

Reiterating its concern over the lack of progress in the investigations and prosecutions against alleged perpetrators of human rights violations and abuses committed during the 2011 electoral process, in January 2015 and in September and December 2016, and *calling for* further efforts to hold those responsible to account and fight impunity,

Recalling the importance of fighting impunity within all ranks of FARDC and PNC, *commending* the DRC authorities for prosecutions and convictions of members of the FARDC and PNC for crimes against humanity, and *stressing the need* for the Government of the DRC to continue to ensure the increased professionalism of its security forces,

Noting that the DRC has continued to suffer from recurring and evolving cycles of conflict and persistent violence by armed groups, *expressing* particular concern at the reports of growing inter-communal and militia violence in some areas of the DRC, in particular in the regions of Kasaï and Tanganyika, including attacks against religious institutions, and killings of policemen, *further expressing concerns at* reports of mass graves, and *calling upon* all parties to take appropriate measures to protect and respect United Nations, diplomatic and foreign premises, property and personnel and other civilians in the DRC,

Reiterating its deep concern regarding the security and humanitarian crisis in the DRC exacerbated by destabilizing activities of foreign and domestic armed groups, *stressing* the importance of neutralizing armed groups in the DRC, and *recognizing* the importance of efforts of the FARDC and the United Nations Organization Stabilisation Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO), including by conducting joint operations, in accordance with its mandate, in that regard, *recalling* the strategic importance of the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation (PSC) Framework for the DRC and the region, and *reiterating* its call

to all signatories to fulfill promptly, fully and in good faith their respective commitments under this Framework in order to address the root causes of conflict and put an end to recurring cycles of violence, and promote lasting regional development,

Recalling that it is prepared to impose targeted sanctions under paragraph 7 (d) and (e) of its resolution 2293 (2016), regarding *inter alia* human rights violations or abuses or violations of international humanitarian law,

Encouraging the continuation of efforts by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the African Union (AU), the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to restore peace and security in the DRC, *encouraging* the Government of the DRC to ensure continuous close cooperation with these and other international parties, and *recognizing* the efforts of the Government of the DRC aiming at the achievement of peace and national development,

Expressing concern at the illegal exploitation and trafficking of natural resources by armed groups among others, and the negative impact of armed conflict on protected natural areas, which undermines lasting peace and development for the DRC, and *encouraging* the Government of the DRC to strengthen efforts to safeguard those areas,

Remaining deeply concerned by the persistent high levels of violence and violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, *condemning* in particular those involving targeted attacks against civilians, widespread sexual and gender-based violence, recruitment and use of children by armed groups and militias, the forced displacement of significant numbers of civilians, extrajudicial executions and arbitrary arrests, *recognizing* their deleterious effect on the stabilisation, reconstruction and development efforts in the DRC, and *emphasizing that* all those responsible for all such violations and abuses must be swiftly apprehended, brought to justice and held accountable, and *encouraging* the Government of the DRC to facilitate access for the Joint Human Rights Office in the DRC to all detention centres, hospitals and morgues and all other premises required for documenting human rights violations,

Welcoming the progress achieved by the Government of the DRC, including the Presidential Adviser on Sexual Violence and the Recruitment of Children, to cooperate with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, and MONUSCO, to implement the action plans to prevent and end the recraitment and use of children and sexual violence by the FARDC, and to combat impunity for sexual violence in conflict, including sexual violence committed by the FARDC,

Stressing the need for continued cooperation with the International Criminal Court (ICC) by the Government of the DRC, and *stressing* the importance of actively seeking to hold accountable those responsible for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity in the country,

Remaining greatly concerned by the humanitarian situation that continues to severely affect the civilian population, *expressing deep concern* regarding the very high number of internally displaced persons in the DRC, at more than 2.2 million,

and the 452,000 refugees in the DRC, as well as the more than 468,000 refugees from eastern DRC as a result of ongoing hostilities, *calling upon* the DRC and all States in the region to work towards a peaceful environment conducive to the realization of durable solutions for refugees and internally displaced persons, including their eventual voluntary return and reintegration in the DRC in conditions of safety and dignity, with the support of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT), *stressing* that any such solution should be in line with relevant obligations under international refugee law, international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and *stressing* the need to manage the closure of camps in a manner that respects the rights of internally displaced persons, in accordance with international law,

Expressing further concern at increased impediments to humanitarian access in eastern DRC resulting from insecurity and violence, as well as continued attacks against humanitarian actors and assets, and *calling upon* all parties in the conflict to respect the impartiality, independence and neutrality of humanitarian actors,

Noting with concern the slow progress in the implementation of the national plan for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former armed groups and militia combatants (PNDDR III) and, while *welcoming* the return of thousands of former combatants to their communities since inception of the plan, *expressing concern* at the lack of provision of adequate reintegration measures for these combatants,

Recalling all its relevant resolutions on women, peace and security, on children and armed conflicts, and on the protection of civilians in armed conflicts, also *recalling* the conclusions on children and armed conflicts in the DRC (S/AC.51/2014/3) adopted on 18 September 2014 by the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflicts pertaining to the parties in armed conflicts of the DRC, and *welcoming* efforts of the Government of the DRC in this regard,

Welcoming the efforts of MONUSCO and international partners in delivering training in human rights, international humanitarian law, gender mainstreaming, child protection and protection from sexual and gender-based violence for Congolese security institutions and *underlining* their importance,

Reaffirming that the successful protection of civilians is critical to the fulfilment of MONUSCO's mandate and the delivery of an improved security environment, also stressing the importance of peaceful means and progress on key reforms to promote the protection of civilians, as well as appropriate prioritisation and resourcing,

Reaffirming its strong support to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) and MONUSCO in the implementation of their mandates, *strongly encouraging* the continuation of their efforts and *calling on* the Secretariat to support MONUSCO to fully implement its mandate,

Recalling that it is important that all MONUSCO contingents, including the contingents of the Intervention Brigade, are properly trained and effectively equipped, including with adequate language skills, staffed and supported to be able to sustain their commitment to carry out their respective tasks,

Reiterating its call on all parties to cooperate fully with MONUSCO and to remain committed to the full and objective implementation of the Mission's mandate, *reiterating* its condemnation of any and all attacks against peacekeepers, and *emphasizing* that those responsible for such attacks must be held accountable,

Emphasizing that MONUSCO's activities should be conducted in such a manner as to build and sustain peace and facilitate progress towards sustainable peace and development, *stressing* the need to involve the UNCT and, in this regard, *emphasizing* the importance of joint analysis and effective strategic planning with the UNCT,

Determining that the situation in the DRC continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security in the region,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

Political situation and electoral process

1. *Calls on* all stakeholders in the DRC, including President Kabila, the presidential majority and the opposition, to swiftly implement the 31 December 2016 agreement, in good faith and in all its components, and to redouble their efforts towards a speedy conclusion of the ongoing talks on the "arrangements particuliers", in order to urgently nominate a Prime Minister presented by the Rassemblement, as per the agreement, to put in place the Conseil national de suivi de l'accord (CNSA) and to fully implement confidence-building measures, in order to proceed without further delay to the preparation of the presidential and legislative elections due to take place before the end of 2017;

2. *Reiterates* its determination to bring its full support to implementation of the 31 December 2016 agreement and that effective, swift and timely implementation of the agreement is critical to a credible process and the peace and stability of the DRC;

3. *Calls on* the Government of the DRC and its national partners, including the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI), to ensure a transparent and credible electoral process, in fulfilment of their primary responsibility to create propitious conditions for the forthcoming elections, as per the 31 December 2016 agreement, including full participation of women at all stages;

4. *Acknowledges* the progress in voter registration with the assistance of MONUSCO, *calls on* the CENI to publish immediately a revised comprehensive electoral calendar, as per the 31 December 2016 agreement, and to complete without delay a credible update of the electoral register, *calls on* the Government of the DRC to put in place swiftly an adequate and credible electoral budget, to ensure the successful and timely holding of elections no later than December 2017, as per the agreement, and in accordance with the Constitution, and respecting the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, *encourages* donors to fund accordingly the multi-partner fund for the Projet d'Appui au Cycle Electoral au Congo (PACEC) in order to support civic education, the deployment of elections monitors and provide other important types of support for the election process, and *recalls* that the effective establishment of the CNSA and the government of national unity, as well as a transparent and integrated United Nations approach will be important in that regard;

5. *Calls on* the Parliament during the ordinary session starting on 15 March 2017 to adopt revisions to the electoral law needed to keep the electoral timeline in conformity with the 31 December 2016 agreement;

6. *Urges* the Government as well as all relevant parties to ensure an environment conducive to a free, fair, credible, inclusive, transparent, peaceful and timely electoral process, in accordance with the Congolese Constitution, which includes free and constructive political debate, freedom of opinion and expression, including for the press, freedom of assembly, equitable access to media including State media, the security of all political actors, freedom of movement for all candidates, as well as for election observers and witnesses, journalists, human rights defenders and actors from civil society including women;

7. *Underlines* that a swift and complete implementation of the 31 December 2016 agreement is critical in supporting the legitimacy of the transitional institutions, *expresses its full support* to the mediation led by CENCO, *urges* all national stakeholders to keep engaging in an open and inclusive manner and extend cooperation to CENCO in this regard, and *requests* the Secretary-General to provide political support to these efforts consistent with this resolution, including through his good offices;

Human Rights

8. *Urges* the Government of the DRC to hold accountable those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law or violations and abuses of human rights, as applicable, in particular those that may amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity, including those committed in the context of the electoral process, and *stresses the importance* to this end of both regional cooperation and cooperation with the ICC;

9. *Calls upon* the Congolese authorities to ensure the prosecution of those responsible for the crimes involving grave human rights violations and abuses committed in the context of the 28 November 2011 elections and the current electoral process, in particular in January 2015, on 19, 20 and 21 September and 19 December 2016;

10. *Condemns* the violence witnessed in the Kasaï region over recent months, *expresses grave concern* at serious violations of international humanitarian law committed by local militia in that region, including those involving attacks on DRC security forces and symbols of State authority, recruitment and use of children in violation of applicable international law, and *further expresses* serious concerns at the recent reports of mass graves and of killings of civilians by members of the security forces of the DRC, all of which might constitute war crimes under international law, *welcomes* the announcement by the Government of the DRC that they will conduct investigations into violations of international humanitarian law and violations or abuses of human rights in the Kasaïs jointly with MONUSCO and the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office in the DRC, and in collaboration with the AU, in order to bring to justice and hold accountable all those responsible, and *looks forward* to their results;

11. *Welcomes* efforts made by the Government of the DRC to combat and prevent sexual violence in conflict, including progress made in the fight against

impunity through the arrest, prosecution and conviction of perpetrators from the FARDC and the PNC, and *urges* the Government of the DRC to continue to strengthen its efforts to combat impunity for sexual violence in conflict, including sexual violence committed by the FARDC and PNC at all levels, and to provide all necessary services and protection to survivors and victims, *and further calls upon* the Government of the DRC to complete investigations into allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse by members of the FARDC in line with the zero-tolerance policy and, if appropriate, to prosecute those responsible;

12. *Encourages* the Government of the DRC to implement in full its National Strategy and the Roadmap agreed during the national conference in Kinshasa from 11-13 October 2016 to evaluate the implementation of the Joint Communiqué between the Government of the DRC and the United Nations on the Fight Against Sexual Violence in Conflict adopted in Kinshasa on 30 March 2013;

13. *Welcomes* the progress made in the implementation of the Action Plan to prevent and end the recruitment and use of children by the FARDC, and *calls upon* the Government of the DRC to take all necessary steps to end and prevent violations and abuses against children, and to ensure that children are not detained for their alleged association with armed groups and are handed over to child protection actors in line with the Ministry of Defence and the National Intelligence Agency Directives issued in 2013;

Armed Groups

14. *Strongly condemns* all armed groups operating in the DRC and their violations of international humanitarian law as well as other applicable international law, and abuses of human rights especially those involving attacks on the civilian population, United Nations personnel and humanitarian actors, summary executions, sexual and gender based violence and large scale recruitment and use of children in violation of applicable international law, and *reiterates* that those responsible must be held accountable;

15. *Demands* that all armed groups cease immediately all forms of violence, including violations and abuses against children and other destabilizing activities, the illegal exploitation and trafficking of natural resources, and *further demands* that their members immediately and permanently disband, lay down their arms, reject violence and release children from their ranks, *recalls* in this regard its resolution 2293 (2016) renewing the sanctions regime established by its resolution 1807 (2008), and further *calls for* disarmament of Forces Démocratiques de Libération du Rwanda (FDLR) active leadership and combatants, who were perpetrators of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, during which Hutu and others who opposed the genocide were also killed, and have continued to promote and commit ethnically-based and other killings in Rwanda and the DRC;

16. *Calls for* joint operations by the FARDC and MONUSCO, including joint planning and tactical cooperation, in accordance with MONUSCO's mandate, to ensure all efforts possible are being made to neutralize armed groups and *stresses* the need to carry out operations in strict compliance with international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, as applicable;

17. *Condemns* the brutal killings of more than 1,000 civilians in the Beni area since October 2014, including more than 230 in 2016 alone, some of which occurred near MONUSCO bases, *expresses deep concern* regarding the persistence of violence in this region, *reiterates the urgent need* for a thorough and prompt investigation into these attacks in order to ensure that those responsible are held to account, and *calls on* the Government of the DRC to take further military action, in accordance with international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, as applicable, in coordination and with the support of MONUSCO in accordance with its mandate, to end the threat posed by armed groups operating in eastern DRC;

18. *Reiterates* its call to the Government of the DRC and all signatory States under the PSC Framework to redouble their efforts in order to fully and promptly implement their commitments in good faith, including not interfering in the internal affairs of neighbouring countries, neither tolerating nor providing assistance or support of any kind to armed groups, and not harbouring war criminals;

19. *Expresses concern* at recent incursions of former M23 combatants in DRC, *requests* the Governments of the DRC, Uganda and Rwanda to strengthen their collaboration to ensure the repatriation of former M23 combatants located in their territories consistent with the Nairobi declarations and in line with commitments under the PSC Framework, *calls upon* the former M23 leadership to cooperate fully with the repatriation of former combatants consistent with its commitment under the Nairobi declarations, and *reiterates the importance* of ensuring that all provisions of the signed documents are implemented swiftly and in good faith and, in this regard, that the M23 does not regroup, join other armed groups, or, resume military activities;

20. *Calls for* a suitable solution for the relocation of elements of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army-in Opposition (SPLM/A-iO) currently present in the DRC, with the support of the Government of the DRC, the wider region, international partners and the Secretary-General through his good offices, *welcomes* the establishment of a joint working group, and *supports* the efforts of the United Nations in that regard;

21. *Calls on* the Government of the DRC, which has the primary responsibility for safeguarding the DRC's sovereignty and territorial integrity, to make further meaningful progress in implementing its commitments under the PSC Framework, in particular as regards the consolidation of State authority, reconciliation, tolerance and democracy, and to remain fully committed to protecting the civilian population through the swift establishment of professional, accountable and sustainable security forces, the deployment of an accountable Congolese civil administration, in particular the police, judiciary, prison and territorial administration and the consolidation of rule of law and promotion and protection of human rights;

22. *Notes with deep concern* the limited progress in those fields essential for the DRC's stabilisation and *reiterates* its call to the Government of the DRC to take further steps in particular to uphold its national commitments to Security Sector Reform (SSR), and to implement fully and immediately the national Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) programme;

23. *Calls for* continued national efforts to address the threat posed by the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons, including inter alia through ensuring the safe and effective management, storage and security of their stockpiles of weapons and ammunition, with the continued support of MONUSCO, as appropriate and within existing resources;

24. *Urges* the Government of the DRC to fully implement and provide without delay appropriate funding to its DDR Plan including with regards to reintegration, training, and preparation for resettlement in communities, as well as to weapons and ammunition management activities, in order to be able to effectively deal with former combatants, including those already under FARDC responsibility and acknowledges that the absence of a credible DDR process is preventing armed elements from laying down their weapons;

25. *Calls on* the United Nations Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region to continue his regional and international engagement in furtherance of peace and stability in the DRC and the region, including through the promotion of timely, credible, and inclusive national elections, regional dialogue and by continuing, in close coordination with the SRSG for the DRC, to lead, coordinate and assess the implementation of the national and regional commitments under the PSC Framework, as well as to continue his engagement in regional initiatives with key partners to address the underlying root causes of conflict, while avoiding overlapping with other United Nations institutions;

MONUSCO's mandate

26. *Decides* to extend until 31 March 2018 the mandate of MONUSCO in the DRC, including, on an exceptional basis and without creating a precedent or any prejudice to the agreed principles of peacekeeping, its Intervention Brigade;

27. Taking into account the recommendations of the Secretary-General in his report S/2017/206, *decides* that MONUSCO's authorized troop ceiling will be comprised of 16,215 military personnel, 660 military observers and staff officers, 391 police personnel, and 1,050 personnel of formed police units;

28. *Decides* that the strategic priorities of MONUSCO are to contribute to the following objectives:

(a) Protection of civilians, as described in paragraph 34 (i) of this resolution;

(b) Support to the implementation of the 31 December 2016 agreement and the electoral process, as described in paragraph 34 (ii) of this resolution, in order to contribute to the stabilisation of the DRC;

29. *Requests* all components of the MONUSCO Force as well as its police and the civilian components to work together in an integrated way, and *encourages* MONUSCO and the United Nations system in-country to strengthen integration through joint analysis and joint planning based on comparative advantages and joint implementation arrangements;

30. *Notes* that drivers behind different armed groups' activities and militia violence are varied and that there is no purely military solution to these problems, *underlines* the importance of enhanced political and conflict analysis to inform comprehensive military and civil responses to these threats across MONUSCO,

including through collecting and analysing information on the criminal networks which support these armed groups and *further underlines* the need for tailored responses in tackling armed groups;

31. *Stresses* the need for coordination and cooperation between the Government of the DRC and other national authorities, United Nations entities and development actors to build and sustain peace, stabilize, improve security situation and assist in restoration of State authority;

32. *Reaffirms* that the protection of civilians must be given priority in decisions about the use of available capacity and resources;

33. *Authorizes* MONUSCO, in pursuit of the objectives described in paragraph 32 above, to take all necessary measures to carry out its mandate and *requests* the Secretary-General to immediately inform the Security Council should the MONUSCO Force or Police fail to do so;

34. *Decides* that the mandate of MONUSCO shall include the following priority tasks, bearing in mind that these tasks as well as those in paragraph 35 below are mutually reinforcing:

(i) Protection of civilians

(a) Ensure effective and dynamic protection of civilians under threat of physical violence, including by preventing, deterring, and stopping all armed groups and local militias from inflicting violence on the populations, and by supporting and undertaking local mediation efforts to prevent escalation of violence, paying particular attention to civilians gathered in displaced persons and refugee camps, humanitarian personnel and human rights defenders, with a focus on violence emerging from any of the parties engaged in the conflict, as well as in the context of elections, and mitigating the risk to civilians before, during and after any military operation;

(b) Work with the Government of the DRC to identify threats to civilians and implement existing prevention and response plans and strengthen civil-military cooperation, including joint planning, to ensure the protection of civilians from abuses and violations of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, including all forms of sexual and gender-based violence and violations and abuses committed against children and persons with disabilities, and requests MONUSCO to accelerate the coordinated implementation of monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements on sexual violence in conflict;

(c) Enhance its interaction with civilians, including by the troops, to raise awareness and understanding about its mandate and activities, to strengthen its early warning mechanism, and to increase its efforts to monitor and document violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights, including in the context of elections;

(d) Neutralize armed groups through the Intervention Brigade: in support of the authorities of the DRC, on the basis of information collection and analysis, and taking full account of the need to protect civilians and mitigate risk before, during and after any military operation, carry out targeted offensive operations through the Intervention Brigade with the support of the whole of MONUSCO, either

unilaterally or jointly with the FARDC, in a robust, highly mobile and versatile manner and in strict compliance with international law, including international humanitarian law, and in accordance with the standing operating procedures applicable to persons who are captured or who surrender, and with the human rights due diligence policy on United Nations-support to non-United Nations forces (HRDDP), prevent the expansion of all armed groups, neutralize these groups, and disarm them in order to contribute to the objective of reducing the threat posed by armed groups to state authority and civilian security in eastern DRC and to make space for stabilisation activities, and for the whole of MONUSCO force component to guarantee effective protection of civilians, including in support of operations conducted by the Intervention Brigade to neutralize armed groups and in areas where armed groups have been neutralized;

(e) Provide good offices, advice and assistance to the Government of the DRC to ensure actions against armed groups are supported by civilian and police components as part of consolidated planning which provides a comprehensive response to area-based stabilisation efforts;

(f) Work with the authorities of the DRC to arrest and bring to justice those allegedly responsible for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity and violations of international humanitarian law and violations or abuses of human rights in the country, including leaders of armed groups and those who support them, including through cooperation with States of the region and the ICC;

(g) Provide good offices, advice and support to the Government of the DRC to promote human rights, in particular civil and political rights, and to fight impunity, including through the implementation of the Government's "zero tolerance policy" with respect to discipline and human rights and international humanitarian law violations, committed by elements of the security sector, and to engage and facilitate mediation efforts at local level to advance sustainable peace;

(ii) Implementation of the 31 December 2016 agreement and support to the electoral process

(a) Provide technical and political support to the implementation of the 31 December 2016 agreement, including to the CNSA, the Government of National Unity, the mediation led by CENCO, and other relevant institutions, in coordination with regional and international partners, with a view to furthering reconciliation and democratization, paving the way for holding the elections before the end of 2017, consistent with paragraphs 1 to 6 above;

(b) Monitor, report immediately to the Security Council, and follow-up on human rights violations and abuses and violations of international humanitarian law to report on restrictions on political space and violence, including in the context of the elections, and support the United Nations system in-country to ensure that any support provided by the United Nations shall be consistent with international humanitarian law and human rights law and refugee law as applicable;

(c) Provide technical assistance and logistical support for the electoral process, as appropriate and in coordination with Congolese authorities, the UNCT, regional and international actors, in order to facilitate the electoral cycle, in particular by engaging in a regular and substantial dialogue with the CENI, and

decides that this support will be continually assessed and reviewed according to the progress made by the Congolese authorities in the steering of the electoral process, particularly on presidential and legislative elections, in accordance with paragraphs 1 to 6 above;

(d) Contribute to the provision of training to the PNC in relation to elections security, including through human rights training, in compliance with the United Nations' HRDDP;

(iii) Protection of the United Nations

Ensure the protection of United Nations personnel, facilities, installations and equipment and the security and freedom of movement of United Nations and associated personnel;

35. Further authorizes MONUSCO to pursue the following tasks:

(i) Stabilisation and DDR

(a) Provide coordination between the Government of the DRC, international partners and United Nations agencies in a targeted, sequenced and coordinated approach to stabilisation informed by up to date conflict analysis, through the implementation of the International Security and Stabilisation Support Strategy (ISSSS) and adoption of a conflict-sensitive approach across the Mission, in order to establish functional, professional, and accountable state institutions, including security and judicial institutions;

(b) Continue to collaborate with the Government of the DRC in the swift and vigorous implementation of the action plan to prevent and end the recruitment and use of children and sexual violence against children by the FARDC, and continue dialogue with all listed parties to obtain further commitments and work towards the development and implementation of action plans to prevent and end violations and abuses against children;

(c) Provide good offices, advice and assistance to the Government of the DRC, in close cooperation with other international partners, in the DDR of Congolese combatants not suspected of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity or abuses of human rights, into a peaceful civilian life in line with a Community Violence Reduction (CVR) approach through community-based security and stabilisation measures coordinated under the framework of the ISSSS, while paying specific attention to the needs of children formerly associated with armed forces and groups;

(d) Provide support to the disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration (DDRRR) process to return and reintegrate foreign combatants not suspected of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity or abuses of human rights and their dependants to a peaceful civilian life in their country of origin, or a receptive third country while paying specific attention to the needs of children formerly associated with armed forces and groups;

(ii) Security Sector Reform (SSR)

Work with the Government of the DRC:

(a) in the reform of the police, including by assisting the Comité de réforme de la police, and by advocating for the establishment of the Secrétariat Général à la sécurité et à l'ordre public that will coordinate security institutions with a law enforcement mission;

(b) to encourage and accelerate national ownership of SSR by the Government of the DRC, including through the development of a common national vision, to be encapsulated in a national security policy, as well as a clear and comprehensive SSR implementation roadmap including benchmarks and timelines, and play a leading role in coordinating the support for SSR provided by international and bilateral partners and the United Nations system;

(c) in compliance with the HRDDP, for army reform that would enhance its accountability, efficiency, self-sustainability, training, vetting and effectiveness, while noting that any support provided by the United Nations, including in the form of rations and fuel, should be for joint operations and subject to appropriate oversight and scrutiny;

(d) for the implementation of any appropriate recommendations for justice and prison sector reforms as contained in the final report of the Etats généraux de la Justice, including on the fight against impunity, for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity, in order to develop independent, accountable and functioning justice and security institutions;

(iii) Sanctions regime

Monitor the implementation of the arms embargo as described in paragraph 1 of resolution 2293 (2016) in cooperation with the Group of Experts established by resolution 1533 (2004), and in particular observe and report on flows of military personnel, arms or related materiel across the eastern border of the DRC, including by using, as specified in the letter of the Council dated 22 January 2013 (S/2013/44), surveillance capabilities provided by unmanned aerial systems, seize, collect, record and dispose of arms or related materiel brought into the DRC in violation of the measures imposed by paragraph 1 of resolution 2293 (2016), and exchange relevant information with the Group of Experts;

(iv) Mining activities

Encourage the consolidation of an effective national civilian structure that controls key mining activities and manages in an equitable manner the extraction, transport, and trade of natural resources in eastern DRC;

Child protection

36. *Requests* MONUSCO to take fully into account child protection as a cross-cutting issue throughout its mandate and to assist the Government of the DRC in ensuring that the protection of children's rights is taken into account, inter alia, in DDR processes and in SSR as well as during interventions leading to the separation

of children from armed groups in order to end and prevent violations and abuses against children;

Gender, Sexual Violence, Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

37. *Requests* MONUSCO to take fully into account gender considerations as a crosscutting issue throughout its mandate and to assist the Government of the DRC in ensuring the participation, involvement and representation of women at all levels, including in the creation of conditions conducive to the holding of elections, protection of civilians and support to stabilisation efforts through, inter alia, the provision of gender advisers, and *further requests* enhanced reporting by MONUSCO to the Council on this issue;

38. *Recalls* its Presidential statement S/PRST/2015/22 and its resolution 2272 (2016), *requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures to ensure full compliance of MONUSCO with the United Nations zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse and to keep the Council fully informed through his reports to the Council about the Mission's progress in this regard, and *urges* troop- and police-contributing countries to take appropriate preventative action including predeployment awareness training, and to ensure full accountability in cases of such conduct involving their personnel;

39. *Acknowledges* the crucial role of United Nations Women Protection Advisers deployed in MONUSCO in supporting the Government of the DRC to implement its commitments on addressing sexual violence in conflict and *calls on* MONUSCO to ensure they continue to work closely with the Government of the DRC at both strategic and operational levels;

40. *Requests* MONUSCO to ensure that any support provided to national security forces is in strict compliance with the United Nations HRDDP, and *calls upon* the Government of the DRC to work with MONUSCO to support the promotion of DRC security service personnel with reputable human rights records;

Humanitarian Access

41. *Demands* that all parties allow and facilitate the full, safe, immediate and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel, equipment and supplies and the timely delivery of humanitarian assistance to populations in need, in particular to internally displaced persons, throughout the territory of the DRC, respecting the United Nations guiding principles of humanitarian assistance, including humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence, and relevant provisions of international law;

42. *Calls on* all Member States to generously contribute to the United Nations humanitarian appeal for the DRC to help ensure that United Nations humanitarian agencies and other international organizations are fully funded and able to address the protection and assistance needs of internally displaced persons, survivors of sexual violence, and other vulnerable communities;

Support to the Group of Experts

43. *Expresses* its full support to the United Nations Group of Experts established by resolution 1533 (2004), *calls for* enhanced cooperation between all

States, particularly those in the region, MONUSCO and the Group of Experts, *encourages* timely information exchange between MONUSCO and the Group of Experts, further *encourages* all parties and all States to ensure cooperation with the Group of Experts by individuals and entities within their jurisdiction or under their control and *reiterates* its demand that all parties and all States ensure the safety of its members and its support staff, and unhindered and immediate access, in particular to persons, documents and sites the Group of Experts deems relevant to the execution of its mandate;

Force effectiveness

44. *Urges* the United Nations to continuously incorporate lessons learned to conduct reforms across MONUSCO to better enable its offices and contingents to implement its mandate, in particular regarding the protection of civilians, and to improve Mission chain of command, increase the effectiveness of MONUSCO operations, strengthen safety and security of personnel, and enhance MONUSCO's ability to manage complex situations;

45. *Demands* that all relevant parties cooperate fully in the deployment, operations, and monitoring, verification, and reporting functions of MONUSCO, in particular by guaranteeing the safety, security, and unrestricted freedom of movement of United Nations and associated personnel, throughout the territory of the DRC;

46. *Requests* MONUSCO to continue to maximise Force interoperability, flexibility, mobility and effectiveness in the implementation of the entirety of MONUSCO's mandate, including by deploying rapidly deployable units, specialised capabilities, including information-gathering assets and specialized infantry, and by continuing to modernise and to strengthen the performance of the Force, bearing in mind the safety and security of all military contingents, police officers, military observers, and especially unarmed observers and reminds the Secretary-General of the necessity to keep Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and Statements of Unit Requirements (SURs) between the troop- and police-contributing countries and the United Nations up to date;

47. *Commends* the commitment of the troop- and police-contributing countries in implementing the Mission's mandate in a challenging environment, and in this connection, *highlights* that undeclared national caveats, lack of effective command and control, refusal to obey orders, failure to respond to attacks on civilians, and inadequate equipment may adversely affect the shared responsibility for effective mandate implementation;

48. *Requests* MONUSCO to consider the environmental impacts of its operations when fulfilling its mandated tasks and, in this context, to manage them as appropriate and in accordance with applicable and relevant General Assembly resolutions and United Nations rules and regulations;

49. *Takes note* of the Secretary-General's recommendation to consider the deployment of two Formed Police Units and associated enablers, and in this regard *requests* the Secretary-General to explore the possibility of inter-mission cooperation through appropriate transfers of troops and their assets from other United Nations missions to MONUSCO, subject to the following conditions: (i) the

Council's information and approval, including on the scope and duration of the transfer, (ii) the agreement of the troop- and police-contributing countries and (iii) the security situation where these United Nations missions are deployed and without prejudice to the performance of their mandates, and to report back to the Council in due course, including with any further recommendations as necessary;

Exit strategy

50. *Stresses* that MONUSCO's exit should be phased and progressive, tied to specific targets developed through dialogue with the Government of the DRC, as well as through consultations with other stakeholders, with the Secretary-General to report to the Council at the end of each phase, and at regular intervals, on the progress made, and to make any necessary recommendations on the planning of subsequent phases of the withdrawal, and *looks forward* to the resumption of a strategic dialogue between the Government of the DRC and the United Nations in that regard;

Strategic review

51. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in accordance with best practices, to conduct a strategic review of MONUSCO, examining the continued relevance of all mandated tasks, priorities and related resources, as well as necessity to adapt the Mission's mandate to the specific needs of the post-elections phase, with a view to:

(a) Providing the Security Council with options, no later than 30 September 2017, for a reduction of MONUSCO's Force and civilian components in order to maximize the efficient use of the Mission's resources, to be delivered after the successful implementation of the 31 December 2016 agreement, and sustainable progress in reducing the threat of armed groups, taking account of the Mission and the UNCT's comparative advantages, capacities and other relevant factors, with a view to transferring relevant activities to the UNCT and other relevant partners, as appropriate; and

(b) In light of the Security Council's reaction to these options and following successful implementation of the 31 December 2016 agreement, providing advice to the Security Council on an exit strategy, in line with paragraph 50 above and in advance of the next mandate renewal;

Reports by the Secretary-General

52. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Council every three months on the implementation of MONUSCO's mandate, including its Intervention Brigade, as set out in this resolution, including on:

(i) progress made by the DRC on the implementation of the 31 December 2016 agreement and the electoral process, including on the provisions of paragraphs 1 to 6 above, as well as on the ways in which MONUSCO will be best prepared to address security risks and to monitor and report on human rights violations and abuses in the context of the elections, including in terms of deployment of the Force in areas identified as potential zones of instability and configuration of civilian and police component of MONUSCO, sexual violence and the impact of conflict on women and children, and any gender considerations made;

(ii) the situation on the ground, including updates on operations to neutralize armed groups, in accordance with paragraph 34.i.d, and any instances where the Mission is not effectively fulfilling its protection of civilians mandate, and the circumstances surrounding these instances;

(iii) progress made by the DRC on protecting human rights and in the implementation of its commitments under the PSC Framework, including through the establishment and implementation of a national SSR roadmap, its provincial stabilisation plan supported by the ISSSS and on the implementation of the DDR and DDRRR plans;

(iv) progress in the implementation of the measures taken to transform MONUSCO's Force and improve its performance, including measures to ensure Force effectiveness as outlined in paragraphs 44 to 47, the deployment of rapidly deployable battalions and employment of the Intervention Brigade's capabilities, to become more mobile, efficient and effective in implementing its mandate, and on the definition of an exit strategy for MONUSCO, including the Intervention Brigade;

(v) the risks and their implications for the safety and the security for the United Nations personnel and facilities as a result of the possible military operations as well as measures taken to strengthen their security and mitigate risks;

53. *Requests* the Secretary-General to update the Security Council in writing every 45 days on political and technical progress and obstacles to the implementation of the 31 December 2016 agreement, when no regular reports are due;

54. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Security Council every six months, in coordination with the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region and the SRSG for the DRC on the implementation of the commitments under the PSC Framework and its linkages with the broader security situation in the Great Lakes Region;

55. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

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Letter dated 29 March 2017 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to convey herewith a report of the Director General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) on the status of the implementation of the plan for the destruction of Libya's remaining category 2 chemical weapons outside the territory of Libya (see annex). The report, dated 23 March 2017, covers the period from 23 February to 22 March 2017.

The report was prepared in accordance with the relevant provisions of OPCW Executive Council decision EC-M-52/DEC.1 of 20 July 2016 and Security Council resolution 2298 (2016) of 22 July 2016, for transmission to the Security Council.

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) António **Guterres**

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Annex

[Original: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish]

I have the honour to transmit to you my report entitled "Status of the implementation of the plan for the destruction of Libya's remaining category 2 chemical weapons outside the territory of Libya", prepared in accordance with the relevant provisions of OPCW Executive Council decision EC-M-52/DEC.1, dated 20 July 2016, and United Nations Security Council resolution 2298 (2016), dated 22 July 2016, for transmission to the Security Council (see enclosure). My report covers the period from 23 February to 22 March 2017 and also covers the reporting requirements of Executive Council decisions EC-M-52/DEC.2, dated 27 July 2016, and EC-M-53/DEC.1, dated 26 August 2016.

(*Signed*) Ahmet **Üzümcü**

Enclosure

[Original: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish]

Report by the Director General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

Status of the implementation of the plan for the destruction of Libya's remaining category 2 chemical weapons outside the territory of Libya

1. At its Fifty-Second Meeting, the Executive Council (hereinafter "the Council") adopted a decision on the "Destruction of Libya's Remaining Chemical Weapons" (EC-M-52/DEC.1, dated 20 July 2016) and requested the Director-General to assist Libya in developing a modified plan of destruction of Libya's Category 2 chemical weapons. On 22 July 2016, the United Nations Security Council adopted resolution 2298 (2016), welcoming and endorsing the decision by the Council and requesting the Director-General, through the Secretary-General, to report to the Security Council on a regular basis until the destruction is complete and verified.

2. At the conclusion of its Fifty-Second Meeting, the Council adopted a decision entitled "Detailed Requirements for the Destruction of Libya's Remaining Category 2 Chemical Weapons" (EC-M-52/DEC.2, dated 27 July 2016). In operative paragraph 17 of that decision, the Council requested the Director-General to report to the Council on a monthly basis on the implementation of the decision. This seventh monthly report covers the period from 23 February to 22 March 2017.

Progress in the elimination of Libyan chemical weapons by the State Party hosting destruction activities

3. Gesellschaft zur Entsorgung von chemischen Kampfstoffen und Rüstungsaltlasten mbH (GEKA mbH), the designated destruction facility at Munster, Germany, completed the destruction of the 2-chloroethanol and tributylamine on 17 December 2016 and 20 January 2017 respectively. The destruction of phosphorous trichloride, which as at 20 March 2017 stood at 3.2 metric tonnes, or 2.8%, was suspended, and the decision was made to begin with the destruction of the thionylchloride (see paragraph 5 below).

4. Technical Secretariat (hereinafter "the Secretariat") teams continue to inspect GEKA mbH every two months, with the last such inspection having been conducted from 23 to 27 January 2017. No issues were encountered with the destruction process.

5. GEKA mbH informed the Secretariat that, due to delays in obtaining the final approvals for the neutralisation system, destruction had begun on the phosphorous trichloride using the incinerator at Incinerator Plant 1 ("Munster-1"). The first tank processed contained a mixture of PCl_3 and $POCl_3$, as determined during initial sampling. This tank presented fewer hazards due to the combination of chemicals. The contents were fed slowly into the incinerator to prevent damage to the system as a result of the highly corrosive nature of the material. However, according to the results of a regular inspection performed at Munster-1, the decision was made to

suspend the destruction of phosphorous trichloride and to begin with the destruction of the thionylchloride. The replacement of the chemical is a necessary precaution in order to prevent the refractory coating from severe damage. GEKA mbH will also continue to pursue the required permits and will change over to neutralisation upon receipt of the approvals.

6. Secretariat personnel will travel to Germany to conduct an inspection at GEKA mbH from 27 to 30 March 2017, and will be accompanied by two observers from the Libyan National Authority. Observations from the inspection of the destruction activities will continue to be included in the monthly updates.

Activities carried out by the Secretariat with respect to Libya

7. The Secretariat inspected the destruction operations at GEKA mbH between 23 and 27 January 2017. The Secretariat inspection team confirmed that all monitoring equipment in place for the purposes of verification is functioning as intended.

8. The Secretariat will continue to discuss with GEKA mbH the timelines for the incineration and neutralisation of the remaining chemicals during the forthcoming inspection.

9. As previously reported, the Secretariat was informed that during decanting operations at the Ruwagha storage facility, one container experienced an exothermic reaction, causing the material inside to polymerise. The OPCW Laboratory has completed an analysis of the sample received from Libya, which was taken from the tank in question. In addition to determining the composition of the sample, the Laboratory was requested to ascertain whether the contents of the tank could be regarded as destroyed, or if residual declared chemicals were still present in amounts that would require the waste to be further chemically treated, as well as if the tank contents presented a proliferation risk.

10. Using gas chromatography-mass spectrometry analysis, both PCl_3 and $POCl_3$ were detected in the sample, in the region of 5% by weight. Observations made during the analysis of the sample indicate a potential means of destruction. The highly viscous mass found in the tank is dissolvable in water, and the chemicals requiring destruction (PCl_3 and $POCl_3$) will hydrolyse to harmless, non-scheduled chemicals.

11. Owing to the levels of the Category 2 chemicals remaining in the container (approximately 5%), the viscous nature of the remnants, and the limited ability to recover any useable material, the Secretariat is in a position to affirm that the material no longer presents a proliferation threat.

12. The Secretariat, in accordance with the report of the Council at its Eighty-Third Session (paragraph 6.12 of EC-83/5, dated 11 November 2016), continues to consult with the United Nations Office of Safety and Security (UNDSS) as to the possibility of Secretariat personnel travelling to Ruwagha to obtain soil samples. The UNDSS is currently advising against such travel. The Secretariat will continue to monitor the situation.

Overall costs and status of the trust fund

13. On 1 August 2016, the Secretariat issued a Note calling for voluntary contributions to the new trust fund for support to Libya (S/1400/2016, dated 1 August 2016). As at 31 December 2016, the trust fund had received over EUR 1.2 million, with contributions having been received from Canada, Cyprus, Finland, New Zealand, and the United States of America. As at 21 March 2017, EUR 498,710 had been disbursed from the trust fund for activities related to the destruction of Libya's Category 2 chemical weapons. These funds continue to be used to fund destruction and verification activities related to Libya's Category 2 chemical weapons.

14. The Secretariat has concluded an agreement with Canada on funding the services of an expert company to work with Libya on the preparation of a budget for the work related to the disposal of the contents of the remaining tank and clean-up of the decanted tanks at Ruwagha. The European Union has expressed an interest in contributing to this effort. The Director-General would once again like to express his appreciation to those States Parties that have already made or have committed to making voluntary contributions to the trust fund.